

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 20 have been amended. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claim 26 has been added. Claims 1-9, 11-16, 18-20, 22-26 are pending and under consideration.

Yano et al discusses an automobile navigation system with a touch panel interface. The system "superimposes a switch pattern over the information on the screen and executing a predetermined control action when an operator's finger approaches the switch pattern." (see Yano Abstract lines 1-7).

Matsui discusses displaying an image on a CRT. More specifically, Matsui discusses an improved pointer marker that may more clearly, precisely and smoothly point to desired images displayed on the CRT. (see Matsui col. 1, lines 6-13, col. 3, lines 1-5).

The combination of Yano and Matsui discuss an automobile navigation system with a smooth cursor movement. However, a movable cursor would not be useful in the automobile navigation system disclosed in Yano, as discussed herein below.

In contrast to Yano and Matsui, claim 1 as amended, by way of example, recites " an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on a surface thereof; a first display control unit controlling display of the information on said operation screen unit; and an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of two or more operation modes with respect to the touch operation, wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and the first function corresponding to the touch operation is not executed."

As noted above, Yano specifically intends to carry out a "predetermined control action" at a touch position. Thus, Yano, either alone or in combination with Matsui, does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed. Indeed, any attempt to modify Yano would result in the invention of Yano not working as intended. Thus, the combination would require a substantial redesign of the elements shown and therefore the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. (see MPEP 2143.01).

Independent claims 5, 9, 16, and 20 have also been amended to incorporate a similar feature and are believed allowable for reasons similar to those outlined above.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 11-13, and 22-25 are believed allowable for at least their dependency upon their respective patentable independent claims.

Claim 15 as amended, recites " detecting a touch operation on said operation screen unit; and providing, instead of providing the first function based on the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker in a display position for a predetermined time, corresponding to the detected touch position, on said display device." In contrast, however, Yano discusses carrying out a "predetermined control action" at a touch position and does not teach or suggest the "second function of displaying a marker in a display position for a predetermined time, corresponding to the detected touch position."

CONCLUSION.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

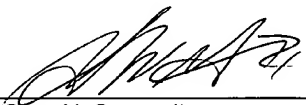
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Feb. 24, 2004

By: 
Gene M. Garner, II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501